



LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER:

FEDERAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

December 2006

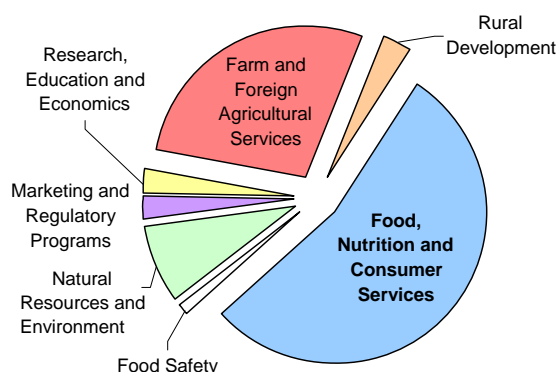
The mission of USDA's [Food and Nutrition Service](#) is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people with access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.

USDA's 15 nutrition assistance programs are the first line of our Nation's defense against hunger. They include the [Food Stamp Program](#) (FSP), the [school meals programs](#), and the [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children](#) (WIC).



Under Secretary Nancy Johner provides nutrition assistance information to a family at the National Zoo's Fiesta Musical.

USDA Outlays, FY 2006



- Since 2001, funding for nutrition assistance has increased by more than 50 percent, to \$59 billion, accounting for over half of USDA's annual budget.
- USDA nutrition assistance programs reach 1 in 5 Americans over the course of a year.
- FNS works successfully with States and other partners to implement outreach activities that promote participation by faith- and community-based organizations, with a total of 1,672 activities in fiscal year 2006.

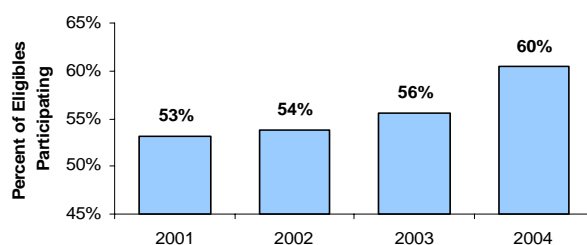
- FNS is committed to ensuring that all eligible people know about nutrition assistance programs, and participates in national and regional events that target underserved (elderly and working poor) and disadvantaged groups (Hispanics, African Americans, and Pacific Islanders).

THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

- More than 26 million low-income people currently participate in the [Food Stamp Program](#) (FSP) every month. About half of the participants are children.
- In 2004, 60% of those eligible to participate in the FSP were able to do so, compared with 53% in 2001. 6.6 million more low-income children and families have been added to the program in the past 4 years and we continue to promote FSP participation aggressively among eligible people. (Applicants can call a toll-free number 1-800-221-5689.)

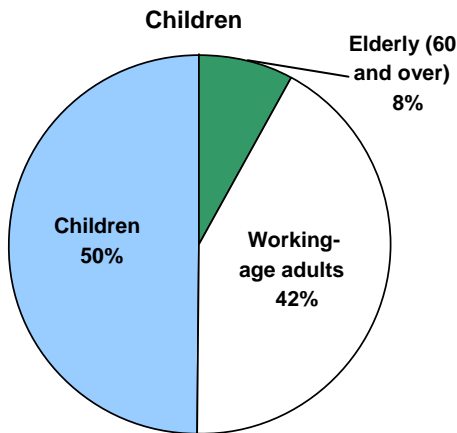


Food Stamp Participation Rates Have Risen Substantially



- In fall 2005, more than \$877 million in disaster food stamp benefits were distributed to 1.7 million households with the help of States and disaster relief agencies.

Half of Food Stamp Participants Are



- The FNS works with our partners, including States, to improve access to these critical nutrition benefits. Efforts and activities include policy streamlining/simplification; outreach materials and activities; promoting technology such as online applications; providing grants for outreach, education and improved access; and approving waivers to simplify the application process.
- Each year, the FSP awards outreach grants to raise awareness about the nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program and to raise awareness among eligible participants on how to apply for Food Stamps.
- In 2006, the FSP awarded more than [\\$1 million to 15 faith- and community-based organizations](#) to assist with outreach and improve access to the FSP and will award an additional [\\$1 million to another 14 organizations this year](#).
- In 2006, the FSP awarded a total of [\\$5 million to five States](#) to help increase access. The FSP also awarded [\\$18 million to States](#) for improving access and increasing program participation.
- The FNS maintains strong partnerships with [food banks, anti-hunger organizations, faith- and community-based organizations](#), individuals and corporations. Partnerships are essential to successfully achieve our goals.
- [Three outreach tool kits](#) designed for State and local food stamp offices, faith- and community-based partners, and retailers are available. The tool kits offer help to implement outreach and media activities.
- USDA's [Food Stamps Step1](#) is an online prescreening tool available in both English and Spanish that enables anyone with access to the Internet to determine their potential eligibility for food stamps and get an estimate of their monthly benefit.
- The FSP conducts a national media campaign, valued at approximately \$4 million annually, to educate potentially eligible non-participants about the nutrition benefits of the Program and how to apply. To support this effort, a 3-year outreach media campaign will be launched at the community level to reach potentially eligible Spanish-speaking people.



SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS



- During the school year, 30 million children eat school lunch, with 15.5 million receiving a free or reduced-price school lunch, in 100,000 schools every school day. 1 million more children have been added to the [National School Lunch Program](#) since 2001.
- Nearly 10 million children receive a [school breakfast](#) every school day in 82,000 schools. 1.3 million more children receive a school breakfast than in 2001.



- Through the [HealthierUS School Challenge](#), more than 100 schools have been certified Gold or Silver schools since 2004. The School Challenge is an extension of President Bush's HealthierUS initiative and builds on USDA's efforts to improve the nutritional quality of school meals.
- More than 8 million women, infants and children receive supplemental foods to meet their special dietary needs in the [WIC Program](#). Nearly 700,000 more women, infants and children have been added to the program since 2001.
- The [Summer Food Service Program](#) serves more than 2 million low-income children during the summer months when school is out. USDA has proclaimed Summer Food Service Program Week each year, raising awareness of program benefits, to promote wider participation in communities, and most importantly, to increase the number of children receiving nutritious meals.
- Over the past year, USDA has [awarded \\$3.76 million in State grants](#) to promote access to school meals for low-income children.



- FNS coordinated the purchase and donation of 22 million pounds of commodities valued at more than \$27 million to ensure that disaster relief agencies such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Southern Baptists and others had sufficient USDA commodity foods to serve disaster victims.
- USDA purchases a variety of high-quality food products each year for distribution to [child nutrition programs](#) and [nutrition programs for the elderly](#) and [Native Americans](#). USDA also makes emergency purchases of commodities for [distribution to victims of natural disasters](#).



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE – Additional Facts

(All figures are for FY 2005 unless otherwise indicated)

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (2006-07)		
% of Poverty	Income for a Family of 4	Makes You Eligible for:
130%	\$26,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food stamps/FDPIR • free school meals/CACFP • CSFP (elderly)
185%	\$37,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced price school meals/CACFP • SFSP (at least 50% of families at this income level) • WIC • CSFP • Farmer's market programs

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (FSP)

- Average monthly benefit of \$92.70 per participant
- FY 2005 national payment accuracy rate of 94.2%
- Total program expenditures: \$32.8 billion (includes Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico)

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

- Average monthly benefit of \$37.55 per recipient
- In 2002, about 34% of pregnant women in the US participated in WIC at some point during pregnancy
- About 47% of all infants born in the US in 2003 participated in WIC
- Approximately 29% of all children the US aged 1 to 4 years participated in WIC in 2000
- Total program expenditures: \$5.2 billion

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP)

- Served in more than 100,000 schools and residential child-care facilities
- 30 million students eat a school lunch every school day; 15.5 million students receive a free or reduced-priced lunch
- SY 2006-07 reimbursements: free – \$2.40; reduced price – \$2.00; paid – \$0.23
- In SY 2005-2006, reached 52.4% of children enrolled in school
- Total program expenditures: \$7.0 billion

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM (SBP)

- Served in more than 82,000 schools; approximately 70% of participating schools serving low-income areas;
- SY 2006-07 reimbursements: free – \$1.31; reduced price – \$1.01; paid – \$0.24; over 80% of meals free/reduced-price
- In SY 2005-06, reached 17.1% of school children,
- Program expenditures: \$1.9 billion

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

- Served 3 million children and seniors each day in child care, adult day care, and after-school care programs
- SY 2006-07 reimbursement rates same as for NSLP and SBP; nearly 80% of meals provided free
- Program expenditures: \$2.1 billion

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)

- Serves free meals to children in low-income areas. 2006 reimbursements: breakfast: \$1.47; lunch/supper: \$2.56; snack: \$0.59
- Total program cost: \$273 million

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDIPR)

- Served about 99,000 low-income Native Americans each month; operated in 5 States and 98 ITOs on 247 reservations
- Average food package cost: \$40.69 (per person/per month)
- Total program cost: \$78.4 million

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)

- Distributed 475 million pounds of food through food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food providers
- Total value of TEFAP foods (entitlement and bonus): \$284.8 million; total program cost: \$344.4 million